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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 27-30 and add new claims 38-43. A complete listing of the claims, including their current status, is provided below.

1. – 26. (Withdrawn)

27. **(Currently Amended)** A method of screening for a candidate bioactive agent capable of modulating PARP activity comprising the steps of:

contacting a candidate bioactive agent with a Tankyrase H (TaHo) protein in the presence of a source of ADP-ribose, wherein the TaHo protein is encoded by a nucleic acid having at least 90% identity to the nucleic acid sequence set forth in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1) or Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2); and

- i) — providing a TaHo protein;
- ii) — providing a candidate bioactive agent; and
- iii) — providing a source of poly ADP-ribose;

and

determining the amount of poly ADP-ribose associated with said TaHo protein, wherein said TaHo protein is encoded by a nucleic acid having at least 90% identity to the nucleic acid sequence set forth in Figure 1 or 2 (SEQ ID NOS:1,2).

28. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to claim 27, wherein said candidate bioactive agent ~~comprises~~ is a small molecule.

29. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to claim 27, wherein said candidate bioactive agent ~~comprises~~ is a peptide.

30. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to claim 27, wherein said source of poly ADP-ribose is ~~selected from the group consisting of NAD, biotinylated NAD, or radioactively labeled NAD.~~

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31. – 37. **(Withdrawn)**

38. **(New)** The method of claim 27, wherein said TaHo protein has PARP activity.

39. **(New)** The method according to claim 27, wherein said source of poly ADP-ribose is biotinylated NAD.

40. **(New)** The method according to claim 27, wherein said source of poly ADP-ribose is radioactively labeled NAD.

41. **(New)** The method according to claim 27, wherein said TaHo protein has an amino acid sequence that is at least 95% identical to an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NOS:3 or 4.

42. **(New)** The method of claim 41, wherein said TaHo protein has PARP activity.

43. **(New)** The method of claim 41, wherein said Taho protein has an amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 or 4.